



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 6480***

*January Session, 2003*

***AN ACT CONCERNING EQUIVALENT CREDITS FOR GRADUATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 10-221a of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

4 (d) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the  
5 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the  
6 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter  
7 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of  
8 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of  
9 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the  
10 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to  
11 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student  
12 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when  
13 the planning and placement team for such student determines the  
14 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section: [.]

15 (1) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2007, inclusive, a credit shall  
16 consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for  
17 each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit  
18 toward high school graduation earned at an institution accredited by  
19 the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One  
20 three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution

21 shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section.

22 (2) For classes graduating in 2008, and for each graduating class  
23 thereafter, a credit shall consist of not less than one school year of  
24 study or the equivalent based on the demonstration of competencies  
25 consistent with content standards adopted by the State Board of  
26 Education. Such demonstration of equivalence shall be described in the  
27 plan submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-223a, as  
28 amended by this act, and may include performance on standardized  
29 tests, successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited  
30 by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited, or  
31 other activities approved by the local or regional board of education. A  
32 student earning credit pursuant to this subdivision shall be in the tenth  
33 grade or higher and may apply no more than one such credit toward  
34 graduation requirements.

35 (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,  
36 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional  
37 board of education may grant a student credit [(1)] toward meeting a  
38 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade  
39 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds  
40 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in  
41 grades nine to twelve, inclusive. [; or (2) toward meeting the high  
42 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of  
43 coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher  
44 Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,  
45 or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for  
46 purposes of this section.]

47 Sec. 2. Section 10-223a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
48 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

49 (NEW) (c) On or before July 1, 2004, each local and regional board of  
50 education shall adopt and submit to the Department of Education a  
51 plan for the awarding of graduation credit equivalents for classes  
52 graduating in 2008, and for each graduating class thereafter. Such plan

53 shall describe how students shall be notified of the opportunity to  
54 obtain such credit equivalents and detail the procedure by which  
55 students may obtain credit equivalents.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*